

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8-17, 35, 36 and 42-61 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 58-61 are cancelled, claims 35, 53 and 55 are amended and no new claims are added.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 53-58 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Furness et al. (U.S. Patent 5,659,327). By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 53 to recite limitations previously found in claims 58 and 59, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 53 as amended is now allowable. Claims 54 and 56-57 depend from claim 53 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 53. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 55 to recite all of the limitations of claim 53 from which it previously dependent from as well as the limitations of claims 60 and 61, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 55 is now allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

With regard to the rejections of claim 53-58 and 60, under §102(b) as being anticipated by Furness, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, but does not argue the traversal here in light of the allowability of the claims as amended. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the same or similar claims in a future continuing application. Amendments made here are made to advance prosecution and without prejudice, disclaimer or waiver of the subject matter of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-2 and 8-17 are allowed and that claims 59 and 61 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for the indication that Applicant's remarks regarding claims 1-2 and 8-17 were persuasive.

Withdrawn Claims 35-36 and 42-52

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended withdrawn method claim 35 to recite all of the limitations present in allowed claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawn claim 35 should be patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 36 and 42-52 should be patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 35 from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner rejoin claims 35-36 and 42-52 in the application and indicate that these claims are allowed as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul C. Onderick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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